



**2021-2022**

**Stay-In-School Recommendation**

Laconia School Board  
Approved on August 17, 2021  
Updates approved on September 1, 2021

# Priorities



- ❖ **Providing safe, in-person learning every day of the school year is a priority of the Laconia School District to support student success in school and to increase opportunities for them in the future.**
- ❖ **Ensure success for every student, every day, in every way**
- ❖ **Build on past successes and lessons learned**
- ❖ **Maintain health and safety in our schools**
- ❖ **Use flexibility when circumstances related to COVID-19 change based on data**

# Vaccinations

- ❖ Inform the school community of vaccination opportunities
- ❖ The Center for Disease Control and Department of Health and Human Services continue to promote vaccinations as an important layer of protection against COVID-19
- ❖ People 12 years old and older can receive a vaccine for free at various sites
- ❖ See <https://www.vaccines.nh.gov> to register for a vaccine
- ❖ Vaccinations are a choice
- ❖ If you have questions or concerns, contact child's school nurse or doctor

# Daily Screening

- ❖ Staff, students and families will conduct daily Covid-19 self screenings
- ❖ “(E)xclud(e) and (test) people with new signs/symptoms of a viral syndrome (e.g., fever, chills, body or muscle aches), or respiratory viral infection (e.g., sinus congestion, sore throat, runny nose, cough)” (NH-DHHS)
- ❖ Encourage testing when a person experiences new and/or unusual symptoms
- ❖ Stay home when sick
- ❖ If there are questions about a child’s health, contact the school nurse or doctor

# Health and Cleaning Protocols

- ❖ Wash hands frequently
- ❖ Cough and sneeze into the inside of your elbow
- ❖ Educate staff and families on proper hand-washing
- ❖ Clean high contact surfaces frequently
- ❖ Deep clean, including fogging, in spaces with positive cases

# Ventilation

- ❖ Rist-Frost-Shumway (RFS) conducted air quality assessments in the district last year.
- ❖ Air exchanges rates are excellent in the elementary schools, the Middle School, and in the Huot.
- ❖ Portable air exchange units were purchased and will continue to be used in some spaces at LHS and the SAU to increase air exchange rates
- ❖ Continue to work on improving air quality in spaces at LHS and the SAU

# Teaching and Learning

- ❖ 19 extra staff positions have been approved to support students this year using ESSER funds (interventionists, extra teachers, College and Career exploratory teacher at LMS, Student Learning Coordinator at LHS, etc.)
- ❖ Google Classroom will be used by teachers for students as a platform for communication and for students to access class information and assignments
- ❖ There will be no remote division. Families who want to access remote opportunities can access the [Virtual Learning Learning Academy \(VLACS\)](#)

# Masks and Physical Distancing

- ❖ Mask usage is strongly recommended when indoors and when 6 feet of physical distance between people cannot be maintained
- ❖ First Student Transportation is requiring masks for all students on busses to comply with federal public transportation guidelines
- ❖ “...(M)aximize physical distance to the extent possible between everybody with an ideal goal of at least 3 feet of separation” (from NH-DHHS)



## **Gatherings and Visitors**

- ❖ **Visitors will be allowed in the buildings providing they are presenting no Covid-19 symptoms upon approval of the administration**
- ❖ **Large-scale, indoor events may be limited or modified if physical distancing is a challenge. This includes concerts, assemblies, etc.**
- ❖ **Lunches will be held in the cafeteria and in other spaces as needed so that students can adequately physically distance**
- ❖ **IEP, 504, and other staff-parent meetings can be held either in-person or remotely at the parent's request**

# Considerations for Mask Usage from NH-DHHS

*Schools and childcare programs can recommend or require facemasks. Decide with your community how to implement face masks to prevent introduction and spread of COVID-19 based on:*

- 1. Community transmission
  - a. State
  - b. County
  - c. City*
- 2. Number of cases of COVID-19 occurring within your school or childcare facility, and the presence of clusters/outbreaks*
- 3. Your ability to implement other prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, cohorting, etc.). For example if you can separate children who are indoors by 6 feet, or activities are outdoors, masks may not be as important*
- 4. Level of COVID-19 vaccination within your school population, or within the surrounding town/city (see Vaccination Data Dashboard) – we recommend a goal of at least 80% of the population fully vaccinated*

## Considerations for Mask Usage from NH-DHHS (cont.)

*The NH DHHS public health team will work with you in these outbreak situations to conduct contact tracing, and the facility primary point of contact will need to be prepared to communicate...*

- a. Promptly notify the NH DHHS COVID-19 Congregate Settings Investigation Unit (CSI), if more than once case is identified at your facility*
- b. Review the above prevention strategies checklist and work with your public health investigator to determine if there are steps that need to be taken to increase precautions (e.g., more strict cohorting, increasing physical distancing, implementing face masks until the outbreak is over)*
- c. Typical time frames are to close a cluster or outbreak after 14 days have passed without new cases and 14 days have passed since the last date of exposure at the institution, whichever is longer*

# Clusters and Outbreaks

<p>A cluster in the school or childcare setting</p>	<p>Multiple cases comprising at least <b>10% of students, teachers, or staff</b> within a specified core group <b>OR at least three (3) within a specified core group</b> meeting criteria for a school-associated COVID-19 case; <b>with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other§</b> , <b>AND NO likely known epidemiologic link to a case outside of the school setting.</b></p>
<p>An outbreak in a school or childcare setting</p>	<p>Multiple cases comprising at least <b>10% of students, teachers, or staff</b>, within a specified core group <b>OR at least three (3) cases within a specified core group meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed school-associated COVID-19 case with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other§</b> ; who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e. household) outside of the school setting; <b>AND epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned extracurricular activity</b></p>

## **Considerations for Mask Usage from NH-DHHS (cont.)**

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# Quarantine and Isolation

- ❖ 10 day isolation will take place for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and have met the criteria for [discontinuation for isolation](#)
- ❖ If a household member tests positive, NH-DHHS Guidelines state:
  - [Quarantine](#) will be required for household contacts by DHHS if unvaccinated
  - Vaccinated household contacts self monitor for symptoms and test after 3-5 days or wear a mask for 14 days
- ❖ Non-households close contacts are to [self-observe](#) and monitor for symptoms
- ❖ DHHS could expand quarantine to non-household contacts to control a potential outbreak

## **Athletics and Co-Curriculars**

- ❖ Full play / participation with no restrictions is planned at this point
- ❖ The Superintendent will work with the athletic directors and principals to determine if schedule changes or cancellations are necessary due to COVID-19 circumstances

# Laconia School District COVID-19 Dashboard

School	Active Cases	Total Cases	Cluster Count	Current Outbreak	Last Reported Case
Elm Street	0	0	0	0	N/A
Pleasant Street	1	1	0	0	August 29
Woodland Heights	1	1	0	0	September 1
LMS	0	0	0	0	N/A
LHS	1	1	0	0	August 30
Total	3	3	0	0	

The dashboard will appear on the [Laconia School District website](#). This is the data as of September 1.



# Decision-Making Matrix

Level	Transmission		Vaccination Rate			Clusters / Outbreaks in Schools	Building Mitigation
	Belknap County	Laconia	Belknap County	Laconia	Laconia Schools	School	School
Minimal					Staff (high)	Low	
Moderate			53.9%	52.1%			Moderate
Substantial	440.4 cases per 100,000	69 cases			Students (low)		

Covid-19 data as of September 1

# Resources

- ❖ [STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 \(COVID-19\) SCHOOL & CHILDCARE TOOLKIT 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR](#)
- ❖ [New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Education and Childcare Partner Call \(21 July 2021\)](#)
- ❖ [New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 Weekly Partner Call \(5 August 2021\)](#)
- ❖ [New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Education and Childcare Partner Call \(11 August 2021\)](#)
- ❖ [Covid-19 New Hampshire site](#)